



Aquatic Habitat Matching Grant Program

This new program provides funding to support projects that improve, preserve and restore aquatic habitat in creeks or along creek, marine or lake shorelines. The program is part of Mayor Nickels' Restore Our Waters initiative, a comprehensive plan to restore, protect and enhance Seattle's water bodies. Grants start at \$2,000.

ELIGIBILITY

Who may apply?

- ◆ Individuals
- ◆ Non-profit/community groups
- ◆ Businesses

Projects must be located in the City of Seattle

Projects may be on private or public property. Since a majority of the shoreline is located on private property, the grant program provides a unique way for individuals and groups to care for a broader range of habitat.

Projects must have a direct connection to the City's storm drain system

Because funding for the grants comes from Seattle Public Utilities' drainage funds, projects need to:

- ◆ Be in or next to a creek, stormwater pipe, or ditch that is part of the City's drainage system or in a part of a waterway (creek, river, lake, Ship Canal, marine nearshore) that has been directly affected by the City's drainage system. For a map of storm drains that empty into waterbodies in Seattle, go to www.seattle.gov/util/aquaticgrant and click on the drainage outfall locations PDF.
- ◆ Provide a direct public benefit to aquatic habitat affected by the City's drainage system operation.

Projects must match grant funds 100%

- ◆ The amount of match must equal the amount requested from the City.
- ◆ Match may include: community or private cash, non-City grant funds, volunteer labor, donated supplies or professional services, etc.

Examples of projects eligible for funding

- ◆ Removal of fish passage blockages located on private property in the City's drainage system or created by the drainage system.
- ◆ Removal of non-native invasive plant species from aquatic habitats and restoration of native plant species and riparian vegetation where high flows in or from the City's drainage system have caused erosion or disturbance.
- ◆ Removal of bank armoring (such as a bulkhead) where it was installed to protect from flows associated with the City's drainage system.
- ◆ Re-establishment of creek connectivity where connectivity has been disrupted in or by the City's drainage system.
- ◆ Restoration of channel or shoreline complexity where high flows from the City's drainage system have made an impact.

The City will not fund:

- ◆ Property beautification projects
- ◆ Projects outside of riparian areas (more than 100 feet from top of bank)
- ◆ Bank stabilization projects that protect private property
- ◆ Removal of isolated culverts
- ◆ Projects likely to result in damage to property downstream or upstream

RATING CRITERIA

Applications will be rated based on eligibility criteria and the following elements:

- ◆ Quality of writing and clarity of ideas
- ◆ Alignment with program goals
- ◆ Aquatic environment benefits and scientific merit
- ◆ High likelihood of success
- ◆ Realistic budget

Applicants must be able to demonstrate neighborhood and/or community involvement, and long-term project monitoring and maintenance.

See program guidelines for more details.

Application materials

Application materials will be available in May, including updated program guidelines.

To provide information about the program and address questions, Seattle Public Utilities staff will hold two grant assistance workshops in May.

Contact information

For more details, visit www.seattle.gov/util/aquaticgrant or contact Kathy Minsch, Program Manager, at kathy.minsch@seattle.gov or 206-615-1441.



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